

To Whom it may Concern,

I am firmly of the opinion that we need a formal Agreement that recognises and guarantees the rights of Indigenous Australians within the Australian Constitution.

This is important because, in the past, many Governments have frequently changed the laws regarding indigenous people and many of their rights and freedoms have been taken away to the detriment of their well-being.

This has greatly hampered their sense of security and self-determination and has led to damaging and inadequate laws being passed. It has also affected their view of themselves and removed their ability to make decisions for their own welfare. As a consequence, many of the laws which affect their identity as the Indigenous Peoples of Australia have been gravely detrimental.

An Agreement within the Constitution cannot be changed lightly and nor should it. It needs to reflect the very essence of Australia's First Peoples and to set down how the most precious things about their culture can be protected. It is very important that the Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islanders be consulted about what is meaningful recognition to them and that other Australians are given an opportunity to understand their views.

Yours Sincerely,
Bron Long

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